Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 L-03 H-01 PA-01 NEA-10 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07 CEA-01 /117 W

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USADB

FOR NAC AGENCIES

EO 11652:N/A TAGS: EAID, EFIN ADB SUBJECT: REVIEW OF ADB LENDING RATE

REF: (A) TREASURY 78-104, (B) MANILA 11485, (C) MANILA - 11931

- 1. ON JULY 27, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL TO KEEP THE LENDING RATE AT 7.70 PERCENT ON ORDINARY CAPITAL LOANS APPROVED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND DECEMBER 31, 1978.
- 2. IN SUPPORTING PROPOSAL, U.S. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NOTED THAT IT NEEDED TO BE KEPT IN MIND THAT THERE WAS A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ADB AND IBRD LENDING RATES, ALTHOUGH TO WHAT DEGREE DEPENDS ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES AT ANY PARTICULAR TIME. USED SAID HE THOUGHT SOME LANGUAGE IN THE BOARD DOCUMENT MIGHT INADVERTENTLY HAVE IMPLIED COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE BETWEEN THE TWO INSTITUTIONS ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THIS ISSUE. THE JAPANESE ED ASKED FOR CONFIRMATION THAT IT IS STILL BANK POLICY TO GENERALLY FOLLOW THE TREND OF THE IBRD, AND THAT THE PROPOSAL TO KEEP THE SAME RATE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THIS YEAR IS AN EXCEPTIONAL SITUATION.

3. PRESIDENT YOSHIDA REMARKED THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION WAS MOST UNUSUAL AND RESULTS BASICALLY FROM THE FACT THAT

THE IBRD REVIEWS ITS LENDING RATE EACH QUARTER. THIS, IS NOT A DESIRABLE ARRANGEMENT. HE EXPRESSED HIS BELIEF THAT THIS BANK SHOULD FOLLOW A POLICY OF SETTING THE RATE ONCE A YEAR AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR. HIS COMMENT WAS MADE AFTER THE FRENCH DIRECTOR HAD EXPRESSED UNEASE WITH THIS BANK GIVING THE APPEARANCE NOW OF DIVERGING FROM THE DECISION TAKEN LAST FEBRUARY WHICH IMPLICITLY INDICATED A QUARTERLY REVIEW. EDMOND

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